

July 22, 2020

Update from Dr. Derek Arrowood, Superintendent, Hamilton Heights School Corporation

By now I trust everyone has had a chance to review and weigh in on the Hamilton Heights COVID-19 School Re-Entry Guidelines & Expectations Plan. We appreciate your reviewing, input, feedback, and readying for a new school year in these challenging times.

Because of the changes to the start of this school year, we know there will be some questions. My preference is for you to reach out directly to me or one of our administrators to ensure you receive current, factual information. It's a lot to digest and the plan will be fluid as we continue to adapt to accommodate the shifts in guidance and mandates.

In fact, while Gov. Holcomb expressed his interest in leaving it up to local districts in collaboration with their local and state health departments *"to get back to in school instruction when it's safe and where it's safe"* during his press conference today, he also issued an executive order mandating Hoosiers wear masks effective Monday, July 27. We will be updating our Re-Entry Plan to reflect the new state mandate and impact at Heights. We'll send out a note and the updated plan to district families on Friday, July 24.

Meanwhile, we have created a segment in our plan specifically for additional questions and answers beginning on Page 15 of the document. [Click here](#) to keep up to date on the latest Q & A related to reopening our campus and beginning the school year. We also have a [COVID-19 Q & A section](#) on our website that is continually updated based on the latest data and information from our partners from local, state, and federal agencies. Questions can also be submitted on this site.

For those of you who haven't read and signed the HHSC COVID-19 Guideline & Expectation Agreement, [click here](#). This is as important as registering your student for school. Both need to be done to ensure your student is ready to go on the first day of school. The [Off-site Learning Request Form](#) was emailed to parents/guardians on Monday to complete by midnight **Sunday, July 26** if your child is unable to return to school in person.

Earlier today, our building principals sent out their detailed learning plans containing additional information about the beginning of school. Our educators and staff are ready and excited to see their students. Our high school students (grades 9-12) will attend their first semester of the 2020-21 year at the former middle school (420 W. North Street). The Elementary School has been transformed into the new Middle School (grades 5-8) and the former Primary School, now the new Elementary School, is home to early childhood – 4th grade students. The new building configurations feature many new amenities with bright, engaging, and welcoming learning spaces throughout. This will help make returning to school even more exciting for everyone. I commend our Project Vision team for a remarkable job thus far and, they are not done yet!

Our plan serves as our district's roadmap toward a safe and responsible campus re-entry and the daily activities in the weeks ahead. We know there could be detours, rough roads, and stops along the way. We also know that current circumstances won't allow us to do all the things we used to do and in the way we used to do them. We are, and will continue to do the best we can, with what we have, and in the best interests of the students in our district. With this thought in mind, let's continue to share the road and stick together. We are all headed in the same direction. #WeAreHuskies